

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 15 are the independent claims.

Claims 5, 10, 36, and 37 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 12, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 6, and 10-34 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 5 and amended independent claim 1 to recite the features of claim 5 and have cancelled claim 10 and amended claim 8 to place it in independent form and to recite the features of claim 10. Also, Applicants have rewritten claims 11, 12, and 15 in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and all intervening claims. All pending claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 15. Accordingly, it is submitted that the pending claims are now in allowable form.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,567,068 (Egashira et al.). Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Egashira et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,047 (Ahn). Claims 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Egashira et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,414,760 (Lopez et al.). All rejections are respectfully submitted to be traversed for the reasons discussed above, --namely the inclusion into each independent claim of subject matter indicated as patentably defining over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

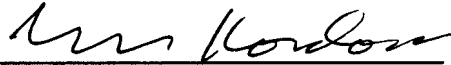
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7-18-07

By: 
Michael E. Kondoudis
Registration No. 42,758

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501